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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,199	08/24/2001	Jeffrey J. Norris	2316.1485US01	3383
23552	7590	03/03/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/939,199

**Applicant(s)**

NORRIS ET AL.

**Examiner**

Edwin A. León

**Art Unit**

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9 and 11-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's Response filed December 15, 2003 has been placed of record in the file.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perrone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,626,705) in view of Burroughs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,840,568). With regard to Claims 1 and 4, Perrone et al. discloses a system for use with jack assemblies (22) including front plug receiving ports (26, 28) and rear electrical card edge contacts (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) comprising: a chassis (20) having a front and a rear, the chassis (20) including a power bus (See Column 3, Lines 60-67) having a plurality of power plugs (See Column 3, Lines 60-67) for providing electrical power, the power bus (See Column 3, Lines 60-67) further including a power intake (See Column 3, Lines 60-67) for receiving electrical power, the

chassis (20) defining a plurality of jack assembly receiving areas (where 22 and 24 are mounted) formed in the front of the chassis (20); and a plurality of mount apparatus (24) mounted in the chassis (20), each of the mount apparatus (24) including a power receptacle (31) for receiving electrical power from one of the plurality of power plugs (See Column 3, Lines 60-67) and a circuit board assembly (42), each of the mount apparatus (24) including front electrical contacts (33) and rear electrical contacts (32), the front electrical contacts (33) configured for contacting the rear electrical contacts (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) of the jack assemblies (22), the plurality of jack assemblies (22) each having front and plug receiving ports (26, 28) and rear electrical contacts (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) that are electrically connected to the mount apparatus (24). See Figs. 1-11b.

However, Perrone et al. doesn't show the jack assemblies including rear electrical card edge contacts, the front electrical contacts configured for contacting the rear electrical card edge contacts of the jack assemblies.

Burroughs et al. discloses a similar system having jack assemblies (12) including front plug receiving ports (104,105,106) and rear electrical card edge contacts (601-612), and a mount apparatus (10) including front electrical contacts (300) and rear electrical contacts (302), the front electrical contacts (300) configured for contacting rear electrical card edge contacts (601-612) of jack assemblies (12). See Figs. 1-16, Column 10, Lines 34-67 and Column 11, Lines 1-26.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Perrone et al. by using jack assemblies

including rear electrical card edge contacts and the front electrical contacts configured for contacting the rear electrical card edge contacts of the jack assemblies as taught in Burroughs et al. in order to improve the flexibility and the DSX (digital cross-connect system functions of the system.

With regard to Claim 3, Perrone et al. discloses the chassis (20) further including first and second cable guides (See Column 3, Lines 60-67). See Figs. 1-11b.

With regard to Claim 5, Perrone et al. discloses the chassis (20) including slots (See Column 3, Lines 60-67) for retaining the jack assembly (22). See Figs. 1-11b.

With regard to Claim 6, Perrone et al. discloses the mount apparatus (24) including: a front cover (30) having a plurality of receptacles (31); a back cover (Fig. 7) having a plurality of through holes (where 32 and 33 are located); and wherein the circuit board assembly (42) is sandwiched between the front cover (30) and the back cover (Fig. 7), the rear electrical contacts (32) of the mount apparatus (24) including a plurality of pins (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) extending through the holes (where 32 and 33 are located) in the back cover (Fig. 7). See Figs. 1-11b.

With regard to Claim 8, Perrone et al. discloses the circuit board assembly (42) includes a circuit board (42) and a plurality of electrical terminals (33), the electrical terminals (33) including the front electrical contacts (33) of the mount apparatus (24). See Figs. 1-11b.

With regard to Claim 10, Perrone et al. discloses a system for use with jack assemblies (22) including front plug receiving ports (26, 28) and rear electrical contacts (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) comprising: a chassis (20) defining a plurality of slots

configured to receive top and bottom edges of the jack assemblies (22), a plurality of mount apparatus (24) mounted in the chassis (20), each of the mount apparatus (24) including: a front cover (30) having a plurality of receptacles (31) including electrical contacts for mating with the rear electrical contacts (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) of the jack assemblies (22); a back cover (Fig. 7) having a plurality of through holes (where 32 and 33 are located); and a circuit board assembly (42) sandwiched between the front cover (30) and the back cover (Fig. 7), the circuit board assembly (42) including a plurality of pins (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) extending through the holes (where 32 and 33 are located) of the back cover (Fig. 7), the circuit board assembly (42) providing electrical communication between the electrical contacts of the front cover (30) and the pins (See Column 3, Lines 34-46) extending through the back cover (Fig. 7). See Figs. 1-11b.

However, Perrone et al. doesn't show the jack assemblies including rear electrical card edge contacts and the plurality of mount apparatus including a plurality of receptacles including electrical contacts for mating with the rear card edge electrical contacts of the jack assemblies.

Burroughs et al. discloses a similar system for use with jack assemblies (12) including front plug receiving ports (104,105,106) and rear electrical card edge contacts (601-612) and a plurality of mount apparatus (10) having a plurality of receptacles (208) including electrical contacts (300) for mating with the rear card edge electrical contacts (601-612) of the jack assemblies (12). See Figs. 1-16, Column 10, Lines 34-67 and Column 11, Lines 1-26.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Perrone et al. by using jack assemblies including rear electrical card edge contacts and the plurality of mount apparatus including a plurality of receptacles including electrical contacts for mating with the rear card edge electrical contacts of the jack assemblies as taught in Burroughs et al. in order to improve the flexibility and the DSX (digital cross-connect system functions of the system.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claim 15 is allowed for the reasons given on the Office Action of December 4, 2002.
5. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims for the reasons given on the Office Action of December 4, 2002.
6. Claims 7, and 11-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims for the reasons stated in the Office Action of October 17, 2003.

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

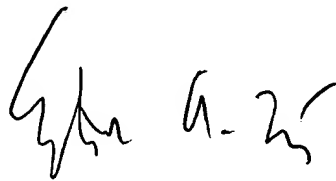
### ***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin A. León". The signature is stylized with a large initial "E" and "L".

Edwin A. León  
AU 2833

EAL  
February 24, 2004